

2025 Joseph B. Gittler Award

The Committee for the Society for the Study of Social Problems is pleased to announce that Dr. Emily Schneider has been selected for the 2025 Joseph B. Gittler Award, which honors significant scholarly achievements in the ethical resolution of social problems. Established in 2007 through a bequest by Joseph B. Gittler, the award recognizes an SSSP member whose scholarship promotes awareness and action on ethical issues central to social problems and injustices. The award carries a stipend of \$500 and will be presented at the 75th Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, August 8–10, 2025, by Dr. David G. Embrick.

This year, the Committee reviewed two outstanding nominees: Professor Ambassador Nwaocha Ogechukwu and Dr. Emily Schneider. Selection was guided by the award's criteria, which include:

1. A minimum of three years of active SSSP membership and
2. A sustained record of disseminated scholarship, applied or normative, promoting ethical solutions to social problems through awareness, activism, or societal-level responses.

Professor Ambassador Nwaocha Ogechukwu

Professor Ogechukwu's scholarship critically examines the Osu caste system in Igbo society. Their research critiques traditional paradigms and reframes cultural hierarchies through the lens of equity and coexistence. In addition to academic contributions, Professor Ogechukwu has shown commitment to activism through Marriage without Borders, an initiative supporting couples facing caste-based exclusions. Their work blends theory and innovation with grassroots advocacy to promote legal recognition and inclusion for marginalized individuals.

Dr. Emily Schneider

Dr. Schneider is a scholar-activist whose research examines settler colonialism, state violence, and Jewish solidarity with Palestinians. Dr. Schneider analyzes the intersections of militarism, capitalism, and transnational solidarity through peer-reviewed publications and a forthcoming book. Beyond academia, they have organized with Jewish Voice for Peace and the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and have maintained a public voice supporting justice. Their work, featured in outlets like NPR, demonstrates courage and clarity, especially in today's climate of censorship and repression. Dr. Schneider is also a dedicated educator and mentor. A member of SSSP for over three years, Dr. Schneider has also contributed through service to the organization.

Committee Recommendation

While both nominees represent commitments to justice, scholarship, and activism, the Committee unanimously recommends Dr. Emily Schneider for the 2025 Joseph B. Gittler Award. Dr. Schneider's work aligns closely with the award's mission and exemplifies the integration of academic inquiry with public engagement, student mentorship, and ethical clarity in advocacy.

Dr. Rachel L. Rayburn, Committee Chair